

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of claims:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image forming unit for forming an image on a sheet including a first discharge stacker for stacking the sheet, and first sheet discharge means for discharging the sheet in a discharge direction to the first discharge stacker,

a sheet finishing unit arranged above the image forming unit for performing a finishing process on the sheet discharged from the image forming unit, said sheet finishing unit including a second discharge stacker for stacking the sheet, and second sheet discharge means for discharging the sheet in a direction same as the discharge direction, and

an image reading unit for scanning an original set on a platen, said image reading unit being arranged above the sheet finishing unit such that a scanning direction thereof is substantially perpendicular to the discharge direction,

wherein said sheet finishing unit is provided with a mounting member for mounting the image reading unit on the sheet finishing unit, said mounting member having a support portion protruding from the sheet finishing unit toward a backside relative to the discharge direction.

2. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image reading unit is arranged at a position shifted relative to the first discharge stacker and the second discharge stacker toward a backside in relative to the discharge direction.

3. (original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image forming unit, said sheet finishing unit, and said image reading unit are retained in separate casings, respectively.

4. (original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sheet finishing unit further includes finishing means arranged on one of a left side and a right side of the second discharge stacker, and said second sheet discharge means includes drive means arranged on the other of the left side and the right side of the second discharge stacker.

5-6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein said ~~mounting member~~ supporting portion includes a flat portion for mounting the sheet finishing unit and at least two stems connected to the flat portion.

8. (original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image reading unit includes an original feeding unit for feeding the original in the scanning direction.

9. (original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sheet finishing unit includes at least one means for punching a hole, stapling and marking on the sheet.

10. (new) An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image forming unit for forming an image on a sheet including a first discharge stacker for stacking the sheet, and first sheet discharge means for discharging the sheet in a discharge direction to the first discharge stacker,

a sheet finishing unit arranged above the image forming unit for performing a finishing process on the sheet discharged from the image forming unit, said sheet finishing unit including a second discharge stacker disposed with a space above the first discharge stacker to overlay therewith for stacking the sheet, and second sheet discharge means for discharging the sheet in a direction same as the discharge direction, said second discharge stacker being supported to rotate upwardly to open an upper part of the first discharge stacker, and

an image reading unit for scanning an original set on a platen disposed on the sheet finishing unit, said image reading unit being arranged above the sheet finishing unit such that a scanning direction thereof is substantially perpendicular to the discharge direction and being offset rearwardly from the first and second discharge stackers relative to the discharge direction.

11. (new) An image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said second discharge stacker includes a fixed base portion, and a leading end portion rotatably attached to the base portion.

12. (new) An image forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein front sides of the sheet finishing unit and the image reading unit are spaced rearwardly from a front side of the image forming unit, and the leading end portion of the second discharge stacker protrudes from a casing of the sheet finishing unit toward the front side of the image forming unit.